

## Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 SCA-01 A-01 /013 W

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P 281750Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5906

UNCLAS LONDON 13899

FOR CONGRESSMAN DENHOLM

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CDES , UK (KERCHBERGER, LUCY)

SUBJECT: DEATH OF KERCHBERGER

REF: STATE 232718 AND LONDON 13862

1. WHILE FULL AIRGRAM REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED, EMBASSY WISHES SUBMIT FOLLOWING INTERIM RESPONSE:

A) DEATH OF KERCHBERGER REPORTED BY LONDON POLICE TO EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER AT 10 P.M., OCTOBER 22. HE IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED MATRON OF RESIDENCE OF DECEDENT TO LEARN THAT SHE WAS AWAITING TELEPHONE CALL FROM MOTHER BOOKED FOR 12 P.M. AND BOTH DECIDED THAT MATRON SHOULD INFORM MOTHER OF TRAGEDY SINCE SHE WAS KNOWLEDG-ABLE ABOUT DAUGHTER'S ACTIVITIES AND WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE MOTHER WITH ANY DETAILS CONCERNING CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH.

B) INQUEST OPENED ON OCTOBER 25 WAS ADJOURNED TO NOVEMBER 20 BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES AND EMBASSY ADVISED ONLY TODAY THAT OFFICIAL REPORT WOULD BE AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 29. LONDON CORONERS OFFICE CITE EXCEEDINGLY HEAVY WORK-LOAD FOR DELAY.

C) UNOFFICIAL REPORTS ON CAUSE OF DEATH ARE, UNFORTUNATE-  
LY, PRONE TO VARY IN CASES OF THIS NATURE. MISS CULLY,  
EMPLOYED BY MARSHALL COMMISSION LONDON, NOT REPEAT NOT  
EMBASSY, INFORMED EMBASSY SHE TOLD FRIEND OF FAMILY THAT  
CAUSE OF DEATH WAS APPARENTLY SUICIDE, BUT THIS WOULD  
HAVE TO BE OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED BY INQUEST. MATRON AT  
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RESIDENCE RECALLS THAT SHE TOLD MOTHER THAT CAUSE OF

DEATH WAS FROM APPARENT OVERDOSE OF SOME UNDEFINED PILLS FOUND IN DAUGHTER'S ROOM. EMBASSY'S TELEGRAM 12319 OF OCTOBER 24 CONFIRMING DEATH INDICATED THIS POSSIBILITY WITH CAVEAT THAT SPECIFIC CAUSE SHOULD AWAIT PATHOLOGISTS REPORT.

D) IN LINE WITH LONG STANDING PRACTICE, EMBASSY DID NOT REPEAT NOT INFORM NEWS MEDIA OF DEATH PRIOR TO REPORT TO NEXT OF KIN.

E) NO REPEAT NO PERSONAL JEWELRY OF ANY SIGNIFICANT MONETARY VALUE BELONGING TO DECEDENT WAS TAKEN CUSTODY OF BY EMBASSY. ONLY COSTUME JEWELRY CONSISTING LARGELY OF AMERICAN INDIAN HANDICRAFT WAS FOUND WITH PERSONAL EFFECTS OF DECEDENT. FULL DESCRIPTION OF COSTUME JEWELRY FOLLOWS UNDER SEPARATE COVER. AS PROVIDED BY 7 FAM 445.4, DIPLOMA FROM UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MANUSCRIPT OF BOOKS AND PAGES OF POETRY WAS INCLUDED IN THE INVENTORY UNDER "NON-NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS", LISTED AS "PACKAGE PERSONAL DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS".

ANNENBERG

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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